

Public Request for Inclusion in Council Correspondence Package – Concerns Regarding Private Property Enforcement Procurement and Taxpayer Efficiency

Friday 3rd July 2026

Mayor Verquin,
Deputy Mayor Dreger,
Councillor Markovich,
Councillor Babcock, Councillor Blandin,
Chief Administrative Officer Mr. Kellar
Village of Rycroft
PO Box 360, Rycroft, AB T0H 3A0

Good day Kevin and Members of Council.

I am writing to you today as a resident, properties taxpayer, and local accredited business owner, *permitted* within the Village of Rycroft to formally bring to your attention a matter concerning municipal procurement practices and the deployment of public works resources on private property.

For the last three consecutive years, my business has been trusted to handle the cleanup and remediation of unsightly and untidy premises under *Bylaw No. 179-16*. Many in our community also know Glyn and I as the arena operators at the Rycroft hockey arena; running my small business is my primary way to combat the off-season and support my household while the ice is out. During the last three years servicing the Village, we have consistently provided rapid, compliant, and reliable service, ensuring the Village's enforcement actions were backed by commercial-grade efficiency.

To better serve our community, I recently invested heavily back into my business by purchasing a brand new, high-capacity STIHL RZ 152 zero-turn mower, along with new brush cutters and trimmers, specifically to increase our operational speed and make our services even more cost-effective.

However, during this current season, I have observed that Public Works and equipment are being deployed directly to execute these private property enforcement tagged cleanups.

While I understand the administrative desire to manage costs, I believe this operational shift introduces significant negative impacts to Rycroft taxpayers:

1. **Diversion of Core Infrastructure Resources:** Utilizing salaried public works employees for intensive private property cleanups takes them away from their primary, critical responsibilities—such as maintaining our public roads, ditches, parks, and utility infrastructure.
2. **Unfair Double-Billing and Taxpayer Conflict:** Public works salaries and equipment are already fully paid for by our community's tax dollars to maintain public property. Deploying these salaried workers onto private land is a clear conflict of interest for the taxpayer. The Village is essentially double-dipping—using our tax dollars to fund the crew's daily wages, and then turning around and billing the private property owner for that exact same service.
3. **Anti-Competitive Use of Public Funds:** Public works equipment and labor are subfunded by our community's tax dollars. I could understand utilizing these tax-funded resources as an absolute last-ditch resort to carry out the work if no other options existed, but that is not the case here.

4. **Harm to the Local Economy:** Local small businesses who are consistent, fully equipped, carrying their own insurance policies , strictly follow compliance guidelines, and are ready to execute.
5. By denying us the opportunity to do this work, the Village creates an unfair, anti-competitive environment that actively hurts our local economy and seasonal workers.

As elected officials, you are the stewards of our tax dollars, economic growth, and community standards. I respectfully request that Council direct administration to draft an amendment to *Bylaw No. 179-16* (and establish a binding procurement policy mandate) explicitly stating that qualified, insured, local , private contractors must be utilised as the first line of choice for all private property enforcement cleanups. Public works resources should only be deployed as an absolute last resort when no local commercial options are available. I urge the Village to return to its established, risk-mitigated practice of supporting local business while allowing public works to focus strictly on public infrastructure.

Thank you for your time, dedication to our village, and consideration of this matter.

I request that this item be formally received and discussed during the next regular meeting of Council.

Please confirm that you have received this information.

Sincerely,

Allison Marie Glober

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